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handbook in the stone trade of Wisconsin. While it is prepared primarily in the interests of the stone industry of Wisconsin, it has much of general interest to persons outside of the state, and both Dr. Buckley and the director of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey are to be congratulated on presenting to the public such an interesting, attractive and valuable contribution on the subject of building stones.

T. C. H.

Irrigation and Drainage. Principles and Practice of their Cultural Phases. By F. H. KING. The Rural Science Series. The Macmillan Company, pp. 502, 8vo. 1899. Amply illustrated.

In this work there is brought together a vast amount of experimental and experiential data relative to the physics of soils and their relations to water and air. These data are given in both their analytical form in the shape of tables, diagrams, and other modes of scientific expression, and in their concrete industrial form as exemplified in growing crops and in drainage and irrigation appliances. The treatment is very clear and specific and at the same time very compact. It is a conspicuous example of *multum in parvo*, if 500 close-set pages do not make the expression inapplicable. The author has personally studied the irrigation systems of Europe as well as those of this country, and has himself conducted careful experiments bearing on the fundamental principles involved. While thoroughly practical in its bearing, the treatment is firmly controlled by the scientific spirit. It is an admirable blending of good science and good technology.

T. C. C.

The Coos Bay Coal Field, Oregon. By JOSEPH SILAS DILLER. Extract from the Nineteenth Annual Report of the U. S. Geol. Survey, 1897-8, Part III, Economic Geology.

This paper deals almost wholly with economic interests of a very local character; and yet it is not without some facts of general interest. It is a description of a coal field of very limited extent situated on the coast of Oregon 200 miles south of the Columbia River. The coal is of Eocene age. Fossils of fresh and brackish water type are found in

immediate connection with the coal, while marine shells are found in the sediments separating the beds.

The seams contain true coal and "pitch coal." The true coal is of good quality, containing little ash. Much of it is "fat," containing as high as 66 per cent. of volatile matter. The "pitch coal" is found in veins and irregular masses in or near the true coal. The latter part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the "pitch coal" by William C. Day, who concludes that it is an *asphalt*, as it shows none of the characteristics of coal.

W. T. LEE.